

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03084 112318Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SS-15 /031 W

-----112344Z 032861 /12

O 112303Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4267

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3084

FOR ARA/AND/E - J ALLITTO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, TD (MRS. CARTER), EC

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON BACKGROUND PAPER AND ON LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER TO GOE

REF: ALLITTO-CORR TELCON 5/11

1. THE EMBASSY FEELS QUITE STRONGLY THAT THE SINGLE CHARACTER-
ISTIC WHICH MAKES ECUADOR UNIQUE AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THE
PROCESS OF RETURNING POLITICAL POWER TO AN ELECTED, CIVILIAN
GOVERNMENT. THE CURRENT GOE IS ALSO UNIQUE AS A MILITARY
GOVERNMENT WHICH NEVERTHELESS HAS A GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD
AND RESPECTS BASIC PRESS AND OTHER FREEDOMS. WHILE THE REGION-
ALISM PROBLEM CERTAINLY EXISTS, IT IS ONE COMMON TO A NUMBER
OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AND OF DUBIOUS UTILITY FOR MRS.
CARTER'S PURPOSES.

2. THE UNIQUE CHARACTERISTIC OF ECUADOR, IS A LESS TRANSI-
TORY SENSE THAN THE RETURN TO CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IS ITS
"MAVERICK" STATUS IN LATIN AMERICA: WHILE HAVING SOME OF
THE POLITICAL, ETHNIC, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ATTRIBUTES OF THE
CENTRAL AMERICANS, IT HAS NEVER FELT ITSELF TO BE A
CLIENT OF THE US. THIS STATUS HAS PRODUCED A SURPRISINGLY
INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY (E.G., THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL
SEA; SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE GEO-STATIONERY ORBIT, THE
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ECONOMIC-COERCION ISSUE IN THE OAS).

3. SOME THOUGHTS WE BELIEVE COULD BE USEFULLY BE REFLECTED
IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL:

A) RECOGNITION OF SECURITY PROBLEM IN THE ANDEAN SUB-
REGION AND OUR INTEREST IN HOLDING DOWN TENSIONS (WITHOUT
GETTING SPECIFIC ON MATTERS OF MILITARY AID); B) THE

PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON LIFTING THE GSP EXCLUSION AND PROS-
PECTS FOR DOING SO; C) RECOGNITION OF ECUADOR'S STATUS
AS A POTENTIAL ALLY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT (WHILE BEING
SENSITIVE TO ECUADOR'S CONCERNS THAT IN THIS FIELD THE US
MAY BE SKIRTING CLOSE TO INTERVENTIONISM); D) RECOGNITION
OF THE COURAGE OF THE GOE IN MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO RETURN
GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIANS; E) AN EXPRESSION OF PLEASURE AT
THE ABSENCE (EXCEPT FOR SGP ISSUE) OF BILATERAL ISSUES
SEPARATING US; F) EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT WE CAN COOPERATE
ON FINDING SOLUTIONS TO MULTILATERAL ISSUES FACING ALL
NATIONS (LAW OF THE SEA, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, ETC.).
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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